

MEDICAID CODING GUIDELINE

Effective: 7-1-02

CASTS, SPLINTS, AND STRAPPING

CPT CODES:

29000-29085 & 29305-29450	Casts
29105-29131 & 29505-29515	Splints
29200-29280 & 29520-29590	Strapping
29700-29799	Miscellaneous

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

When a surgical procedure on the musculoskeletal system (20000-28899, 29800-29909) is performed and a cast, splint, or strapping is applied to the area of the procedure, there is no separate allowance for the initial application of the cast, splint, or strapping (29000-29550, 29590). However, there can be an additional allowance for cast supplies (Q4001-Q4051**).

If cast application, splinting or strapping is provided as an initial procedure in which **no** surgical procedure is performed (e.g. casting of a sprained ankle or knee), use the appropriate level of E/M code and the code(s) for cast supplies (Q4001-Q4051**), if appropriate. Codes 29000-29550 and 29590 may not be used in this situation.

Codes 29000-29550 and 29590 are payable when the cast, splint or strapping is a replacement which is medically necessary, Cast supplies may be billed separately if appropriate. A visit code on the day of reapplication could be separately billed and paid only if an unrelated problem was also addressed. In that situation, the -25 modifier should be added to the visit code and the diagnosis code should identify the unrelated condition(s).

The allowance for application of a cast, splint or strapping includes removal. **Removal by the same physician or other physician in the same group should not be separately billed.**

****Effective July 1st, 2002** the new temporary Q codes for cast and splint supplies (**Q4001– Q4051**) will be recognized by Medicaid.

COVERED DIAGNOSIS CODES:

Appropriate ICD-9CM code must accompany the claim to support the procedure being performed. (e.g. sprain, fracture, injury, or other appropriate code)

MC Carrier Manual
Coverage Issues Manual
MC Part B Podiatry Manual
MC Part B News #191, July 2001

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